

Summer lawn care ---- Water!

After the wet cold winter months spring has been disappointing. Instead of the mild/warm wet weather we usually experience the weather this spring has been a combination of cold, dry and hot, dry weather with cold even frosty conditions at night. As a consequence the low average soil temperatures and lack of rain fall has meant that the prolific grass growth and germination we usually experience between February and May has not occurred. Many customers have been commenting that they have only had to cut their grass as few as 4- 5 times so far this year!

The cold dry weather conditions in May are anticipated to be replaced with hot, dry weather in June. Lawns are already showing signs of drought stress with many lawn having poor growth and **brown patches appearing**. Without rain your lawn will require heavy watering to prevent damage and grass loss. Reducing the amount you cut leaving a cut height of 1- 1.5 "allows the grass to retain more moisture and become more drought tolerant. Unfortunately weeds and clover are more adaptable to adverse weather and continue to grow despite the dry cold weather conditions.

Brown patches are caused by various factors but in most cases are caused through lack of water and can be easily and quickly cured by watering the lawn. Heavily water the lawn every 4- 5 days rather than lightly water every evening the latter will encourage the roots to turn up towards the damp surface and not down into the soil.

Please see sections on brown patches and watering your lawn on our website www.lawnweedexpert.co.uk or call and ask for a free fact sheet.

New Product development

"Dog Rocks". Prevents animal scorch marks appearing on your lawn in dry weather. A great product that you leave in the water bowl. The pebbles do not dissolve or affect your pet but neutralises the harm full effect dog's urine can have on your lawn. Each bag costs £9.99 and lasts for approx 2 months.

Wetting agent. Applied to your lawn to help the soil maximise the absorption of water.

Growth regulator: We also now have feeds that reduce the amount of mowing you need to do.

Top Dressing: 25 kg bags (dry sand loam mix) delivered to your door. Price £6.00 per bag.

The majority of our customers have already had their **Spring Treatment** which consisted of an application of fertiliser and an application of liquid herbicide to control the early season weeds and clover present in their lawn at the time of the treatment? Lawns which have enjoyed some warm wet weather have greened up and weeds / clover have died. Some lawns will still require watering from time to time to help them develop.

The summer treatment consists of an application of liquid herbicide and fertiliser containing various nutrients including phosphorous and potassium to feed the grass and encourage vitally important root development. Well nourished grass will grow stronger allowing it to compete against weeds, moss and diseases that try to colonise your lawn. Dry lawns are under stress and while our treatments do not require watering in they will produce quicker results if the customer waters his lawn in periods of dry weather.

Weeds grow throughout the year. A second application of herbicide is essential and is applied with the **summer** treatment to control any weeds that have developed since the previous treatment.

Log on to our web site www.lawnweedexpert.co.uk for a brief summary of what each seasonal treatment is designed to achieve. We also carry out the treatments listed below.

Spiking aeration to relieve soil compaction:

Scarifying to remove moss and thatch:

Over seeding and top dressing to thicken up lawns:

Wetting agents to improve water absorption:

Hollow tine aeration to reduce compaction and remove some of the thatch present in your lawn:

During periods of dry weather your lawn may not grow as fast and may not require cutting every week! If you cut your lawn in periods of dry weather you may create brown patches if you do not water.